

From: Sara Yurman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 4:59pm
Subject: Please reject this settlement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this ruling. I am sure than many people have offered excellent technical reasons for rejecting this extraordinarily weak settlement. I have two reasons that I hope the court will consider:

1) I am a small business person. At the moment I can operate on Linux, and not be hampered by some of the Microsoft-specific formats that I receive. This, however, is tenuous and getting more so. As Microsoft extends its reach into the internet, and continues to keep its formats closed my ability to communicate without Microsoft is somewhat serendipitous. Operating with Microsoft products is not an option for us. We are a distributed company and cannot afford the expense and security problems inherent in those products. A virus could be fatal to our small firm.

2) It appears that Microsoft's monopoly power is having a corrosive affect on our political system. I wrote my U.S. Senators (Zell Miller and Max Cleland), urging them to support Senator Schumer's call to block the distribution of the XP operating system. Senator Miller never answered. The following was included in Senator Cleland's response:

>Despite Judge Jackson's ruling last June, Microsoft remains the single most
>dominant technology firm in the world. Microsoft's core businesses, its Windows
>operating system and Office software, are certainly under legal challenges on
>several fronts, but at the moment they are still generating tremendous revenues
>and profits for the company. In addition, Microsoft plans to jump-start its
>Internet access operation, MSN, which is also unlikely to be affected by Judge
>Jackson's verdict.
>

Why is it more important to the Senator from Georgia that Microsoft generate profits than have conditions favorable to small businesses in his district? I never got a response, despite phone calls and emails to the Senator's office. This is the ultimate aim of monopoly power, and Microsoft has achieved it. Please stop them. I'd like to have my government back.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Yurman

CC: Martha Lombard, Matt Yurman